

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner entered a new ground of rejection based on the reference to Allen et al., rejected claims 24 and 25 under the second paragraph of section 112, rejected claims 16 – 19 and 21 – 26 under section 101, rejected claims 14 – 16 and 19 – 26 as obvious over Rourke in view of Stahl, Yamada and Allen, rejected claims 17 and 18 over Rourke, Stahl, Yamada, Allen, Iwaski and Ahrens.

35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claim 24 has been amended to provide a computer program in the claim preamble and to provide that the computational simulation of folds is performed by the computer program. Applicant submits that the rejection is thereby overcome.

35 USC §101

Claim 16 has been amended to provide a computer-implemented method for signature-by-signature editing of print data, the method being performed by a computer executing a computer program having a data structure stored on a computer readable medium. Claim 21 is amended to claim a computer program including a data structure stored on a computer readable medium and executable by said at least one computer. In claim 24 is claimed a computer program product including a computer program as a data structure stored on a computer readable medium and executable on a computer. In claim 26, a computer on which a computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and having a data structure that is executable on the computer is loaded into the computer is claimed. Applicant submits that the rejection is thereby overcome.

Claim 25 overcomes the 101 rejection in that it claims computer program product according to claim 24, wherein said data structure is stored on a tangible computer readable data carrier medium.

35 USC §103

Applicant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of the prior art do not show the claimed steps being performed using a web-shaped recording medium. The claims have been amended to provide that a web-shaped recording medium or web-shaped carrier is used.

The obviousness rejection of part 5 of the office action combines the teachings of four references while part 6 of the office action combines the teachings of six references. While numbers of references alone do not make a claimed invention non-obvious, the references themselves must be combinable to achieve the claimed invention.

Rourke discloses signature printing where the gutter width is automatically determined for pages in a signature. Only one fold direction is considered. Stahl discloses paper folding to achieve predetermined numbers of pages in a booklet or signature, including many different fold layouts, but does not disclose automatic correction of shifts in the page image data as the result of such folding. The Yamada reference, the user inputs the correction to the page position. There is no teaching of automatically providing such position correction.

Allen discloses saddle stitching of sheet-by-sheet printed booklets. Page printing is disclosed rather than web printing as in the present invention. The person of ordinary skill looking at the sheet-by-sheet printing of Allen would not be taught to perform page-by-page position correction of pages to be printed on a web-shaped recording media.

The combination of these four references does not obviate the claimed invention.

Iwasaki discloses paging of folded printed material but does not address automatic correction for the impact of such folding on the printed page. Ahrens addresses the problem of printing transparent graphic objects that overlap to ensure readable text for example. Applicants submit that the person of ordinary skill would not consult a reference on printing of transparent graphics (Ahrens) to identify when physical folds of a recording medium are impossible. As such, Ahrens is non-analogous art and is not combinable to obviate the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention is non-obvious over the combined teachings of the prior art.

New claim 27 claims the computational simulation of zig-zag folding of the web-shaped recording medium. New claim 28 provides that the web shaped recording medium is a continuous web of the recording medium as used in a web-fed printing system.

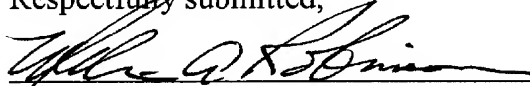
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Deposit Account Information

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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